

California GARDEN

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MAY 1936

A Letter to You and You

By Coralinn B. Tuttle

Activities of Floral
Associations and
Garden Clubs

An
Individual's Preparation
for a Flower Show

By Elizabeth B. Rogers

Eternal Change

By Bertha M. Thomas

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April Flower Shows and Gardening Contest

By SILAS B. OSBORN

April was a busy gardening month for the editor as in conformity with the annual custom, one flower show followed another; the regularity of this parade of floral events being broken only by garden contests. On the fifteenth we had the pleasure of judging the annual garden contest at Coronado. The activity and efficiency of the committee was made evident by the large number of gardens entered. Here was presented for the judges critical decisions, plan after plan and one effect after the other. Mexican, Mediterranean, Spanish, Mission, Japanese, Normandy and cottage types of gardens were visited. A wide selection of such divergent types emphasized the almost unlimited possibilities in San Diego, horticulturally speaking. We served once before about five years ago as one of the garden judges at Coronado. Suffice to say that

great improvements were noticeable both in design and the selection of plants in most gardens revisited this year by the writer. The winning patio garden in this garden contest was the most perfect in design, relation of garden to the dwelling and selection and placing of plants that we have ever seen in the locality of San Diego.

The Chula Vista contest on the seventeenth was limited to a very few gardens. Many of the finest gardens were not entered this year but were visited by the writer nevertheless. Roses and fuchsias at Chula Vista were indescribably fine and we must confess that the biblical commandment about "coveting thy neighbor's goods" was more than once in grave danger of violation by the writer.

The outstanding feature of the National City garden contest on the twenty-first was the number of new gardens entered. Some localities, Coronado among others, make a special class for new gardens which, of course, is much fairer to the contestant and frequently is of great value to him or her, for rare is the garden

judge who does not plant a suggestion or two in mind of the garden owner, gleaned perhaps from some fine effect achieved by the contestant's neighbor down the street.

Both the Coronado and Chula Vista flower shows on the 18th were finer and better attended than ever. San Diego County is slowly becoming garden-wise and garden-conscious. Special classes for arrangements, shadow boxes, silhouettes, etcetra, improve each year. Roses are always fine at Coronado and Chula Vista. Of late years the iris at Chula Vista has been an outstanding feature of their show. The fact that both shows are on the same day is in reality an advantage to the visitors from San Diego for the trip across the bay and around the strand makes an ideal Sunday afternoon excursion, with the naval vessels seen from the ferry, the sand dunes and surf along the strand and the shows themselves pleasant diversions. The National City show on the 21st was finer and better attended than usual. Roses were finer than we

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A Letter to You and You . . .

By CORALINN B. TUTTLE

In a letter from Miss Sessions some time ago she suggested that I write an open letter to California Gardens telling all of the dear friends in San Diego about the garden in our new home in the Napa valley. At that time we had been here so short a time that I felt I had nothing of real interest for you but now that Spring is here and flower shows and gardens abloom I hope that I can pass on some of the observations and experiences we are privileged to enjoy.

First is the wonderful display of flowering fruit trees in every garden, no matter how humble. The flowering peach seems to be the favorite as it comes in red and also white. Next are the cherries and crab apple both very lovely in single and double varieties. One thing I have marveled at are the "redbud" trees that are even used for street parking spaces in the little city of Napa and then when one takes a drive over Mt. St. Helena or along the Puta Creek one is speechless when a turn reveals the glory of hundreds of glowing rose purple trees among the light and dark green woods trees. Another thing one can bring from the mountains into their gardens up here is dogwood, both pink and white. It is rather comforting to know that it is possible to preserve the wild shrubs by sheltering them in gardens away from the dangers of steam shovels and greedy flower pickers.

I think that the only thing up here that is impossible to grow in the garden is the poinsettia. Heavy frosts bit the hydrangeas, begonias and bougainvillas in my garden but they are all coming back with fresh new foliage and strong shoots so perhaps I will have fine flowers later. My Iris blooms which were in bud were frozen too but of course the native will tell you that this is unusual weather so the next crop should be good.

At Christmas an old friend in Vallejo sent me as a greeting a tiny *Strelitzia* plant grown from seed she had gotten from Miss Sessions last year. You can imagine how much I value that little plant. Mrs. Paulson

has a large plant which is truly one of California's earliest Pioneers and I am working on its romantic history for a good flower story. Mrs. Paulson's grandfather sent to Africa for the first plant in 1856 and today there are about eight divisions from that sturdy plant blooming in the gardens of Vallejo. Mrs. Paulson followed Miss Sessions's directions for pollinizing for seeds and successfully raised one seed but the shock was too great for the mother plant which has refused to bloom since then.

We especially enjoy visiting the Jack London ranch which is within a half hour ride from our ranch. His sister, Mrs. Eliza Shepherd is the gracious chatelaine of the ranch house where one can get delicious meals or if one wishes to stay, rooms can be had in the big haybarn. If any of you are coming north this summer I can recommend that as an experience not to be missed. The ranch is in the hills back of the little town of Glen Ellen just outside of the romantic old town of Sonoma. Last week while I was there I met a Mr. Cole of the city parks of Monrovia who was planting lilies and gerberas for Mrs. Shepherd. He sends his regards to John Morely. We also like to visit the old General Vallejo home where his daughter now eighty years young presides. There one sees roses and vines seventy-five years old and a fountain that must have been a sensation when the old General built his Yankee house with gables and gingerbread trimmings all over it.

We are looking forward to the amateur flower shows to be held in the little cities on this side of the bay and will send notes on them if there is anything extraordinary to see. We all agree that music is the universal language but love of flowers is the tie that binds. Every time I visit a lovely garden or see flowers my thoughts fly to all of you and remembrance of all our joys and tribulation spent in the mutual enjoyment of flowers comes pouring over me. May the peace of lovely gardens and flowers be with each and everyone of you.

The Tournament

A marsh, low-lying in the evening mists;
Weird gardens, lighted by a crescent moon;

A golden scimitar, slashing the lagoon
Where lilies tilt in reed encircled lists.

Blue Iris ladies, viewing the swift sword play,
Stand haughtily; footmen in vivid green,

Their straight leaves form a stiffly patterned screen
To shield them from the tournament's affray.

The mockingbird a dashing herald makes;
From where he swings upon a palm tree tall

He ripples on the breeze his liquid call,
A sweet unchartered sound of trills and shakes.

And now the moon grows faint and fades away,
Illusive as a thought one strives to grasp;

Night has undone his cloak's star-jeweled clasp
And from the dropping folds peeps out the Day.

By Murray Skinner.

The Little Brown Owl

A little brown owl once lived in a tree

In the midst of a garden gay.
But he was unhappy as he could be,
And he sighed and sighed all day.

Now under the tree grew a flower small,

Of a glorious crimson hue.
A Rambler-rose, and she'd hear him call,

"To-woo, little love, to-woo."

She saw he was pining his heart away,
This shy little owl so brown,
And she knew there would never come a day

That he'd dare to flutter down.
So she climbed and climbed, 'till she reached his side

And he turned his fluffy, brown head,
"Oh, why have you come, little Love?" he cried

"To woo you," she softly said.

By Dorothy Holder.

Eternal Change . . .

By BERTHA M. THOMAS

Off with the Old—On with the New, is the slogan in all phases of life. The old in this instance is the *Wigandia*—4 species of which are found in Tropical America. They are valued mainly for use in sub-tropical bedding but as a single specimen they are distinctive in appearance. The leaves are immense and the terminals of branches are handsome large bunches of violet flowers which make it a beautiful sight during spring and early summer. The growth is rapid—it needs little attention beyond a vigorous pruning in season.

But to balance its good points we found some which changed our love to scorn. The hairy leaves and stems are cantankerous. One touch on hand or arm has a nettle-like effect. The rash will spread quickly if not checked.

The roots began to throw up healthy shoots far and near and caused much forceful language, and to chop them off only brought in the multiplication table. We alternately admired and scolded for several years. The climax came when we found a sidewalk rising 10 feet away from the tree and vigorous small shoots coming out along 20 feet of its length.

And valuable plants close on both sides of this walk. The tree came down but the sidewalk was a problem. Knowing the nature of Carbon Bi Sulphide we performed some impossible feats with hands and trowel and finally had some tunnels running under the walk. The C. B. S. was thrown in carelessly and tightly covered.

The side shoots began to droop in 3 days—it took 2 months for the walk to go back in place, and now a year later, we still find a shoot of our old friend coming to light in a far off place, or maybe a seedling. We have fully decided that *Wigandia* is like some friends—much better loved at a *Philadelphus* or *Syringa* in the North.

But we are always ready to welcome "the New." Just now, our new arrival for the Water Garden is one of which we read years ago and longed for unavailingly. Namely, a Red Water Hawthorn. Now we have it—even if it is Pink instead of Red, it is most welcome. You all know the beauty of

the White we all enjoy for many reasons. Its fragrance—the glistening white forked blossoms, sprinkled with black anthers—the long floating leaves—and its one outstanding point is the fact that it is a winter bloomer when our other water plants are resting.

Therefore we may have the colors in even our winter pools—since we now have the much larger improved blooms of our old Eastern friend—the yellow March Marigold which is vigorous, good bloomer, and the three colors, white, pink, and golden yellow will harmonize nicely and keep our spirits cheered till warm weather brings us again our Water Lilies.

TOO FEW FLOWERS ARE PLANTED FOR PERFUME

Many plant flower beds for color and decorative masses, kitchen gardens for utility, herb gardens for savor, but only a few plant for perfume in the

garden or in cut flowers.

Women of Martha Washington's time knew how to save the delicate scent of rose petals by putting them in jars with salt, or they made a pot-pourri of different flowers. They gathered damask, roses, and lavender and dried them to make linen drawers sweet, or used violet water. They liked the scent of lilies-of-the-valley and lilies.

It is possible to plant shrubs and vines and flowering annuals and perennials to add to the fragrance of the garden—roses, English violets, carnations, and little clove pinks, and some of the fragrant peonies for indoor vases, say floriculturists in the United States Department of Agriculture. There are so many fragrant annuals and perennials for the home garden that a choice depends on preference and climate.

The perfume garden is so planned that one group of plantings is succeeded by another, each with its own appeal, such as sweet alyssum, mignonette, pinks, perennial phlox, sweet heliotrope, stock and some of the nicotianas. *Nasturtiums* have a spicy fragrance. The leaves of rose geranium are

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LINARIA, "FAIRY BOUQUET"

An Individual's Preparation for a Flower Show . . .

By ELIZABETH B. ROGERS

We, as individuals, must of necessity begin our preparations for flower shows with the planning of our gardens. Not that we have gardens merely for the sake of flower shows but because we can have no flower shows without gardens, and upon our intelligent, thoughtful planning depends largely the success of our flower shows; that is, whether it becomes an outstanding success, or whether it becomes merely another flower show.

So, first, we provide ourselves with schedules, which Mr. H. M. Butterfield, our state chairman of judges, tells us should be made as nearly a year in advance as possible in order to give us sufficient time to grow our exhibits, and with this schedule in hand our seasonal gardens are planned.

Our plans include only those flowers and plants we can grow to the highest state of perfection, for the spirit of emulation, or friendly rivalry engendered among exhibitors will not allow us to include in our gardens plants we grow with indifferent success. Such must be left to our neighbors, who understand them better than we. Then, too, if we would have our gardens attractive we must have thrifty ones. Our motto, then, will be, "Grow a few things and grow them well," and the standards of both garden and flower shows will be kept high.

Keeping in mind that a flower show should have educational value in the community in which it is held, those of us who are fortunate enough to be able to purchase of the new introductions that are placed on the market each year, should deem it a duty as well as a privilege and pleasure to give them a trial in our gardens.

So time passes, our gardens grow, and the date of the flower show draws near.

Fortunately some of our household duties do not require concentration of mind for their accomplishment, so perhaps while washing the breakfast dishes or with the whirr of the vacuum cleaner as an accompaniment, plans for our exhibits are definitely shaped and we begin to try out our arrangements upon our most critical judges

—the members of our families, and from the exclamations and remarks these arrangements call forth, we soon learn whether or not they merit places as exhibits.

Recalling the advice of Charles Gibbs Adams, the eminent Los Angeles County flower show judge, that the first lesson a judge must learn is the law of selection, we are reminded this law also applies to exhibitors as well as to judges, so on the eve of our flower show, with sharp knife in hand we go into the garden to select and cut the flowers for our exhibits. We have learned to use a knife in order not to crush the tissues, thereby preventing the flowers from absorbing the water, and that with a knife we can cut the stems on an angle, thus giving greater surface for absorption and preventing the stems from lying flat upon the bottom of the bowl.

Again consulting our schedules, we start with the classifications of various flowers as specimen exhibits. These we carefully select, first, for their perfection of bloom, then for their perfection of foliage and stem, tie them loosely and plunge them to their necks into deep, cool water for the night. The crooked stemmed ones are left for arrangements to which they often lend themselves so beautifully. Since beautiful flowers require a beautiful and sympathetic setting we thoughtfully select the vase for each exhibit; a vase in good taste yet not expensive enough to be a cause for worry, not forgetting glass ones that will show the oft-forgotten beauty of stems. As each specimen is prepared it is checked on our schedules to make sure none is forgotten.

Going back to the arrangements planned and executed sometime ago, we select the container in which each arrangement was formed and begin again the joy of the compositions.

Here, again, we remember the private rule of judging of Chas. Gibbs Adams, which he says has never failed him. It is this: To view critically every exposed side of a composition and decide whether a frank photograph of it from any angle would look really

worth-while on a page of "House and Garden" or "Country Life." If there is any doubt about that then it is not worthy of honors.

For our all white one in the white container we choose as many flowers as possible with yellow centers to break the color monotony, as well as giving preference to those having fragrance.

For the arrangements with color combinations we have considered the color harmony, a matter almost as important as composition, and which we have learned to combine by two methods. First, by analogy, such as pink and lavender, yellow and orange, etc., and second, by contrast, as blue and orange, yellow and purple. We have learned, too, that, if complementary colors are combined, it is always far more pleasing if a little of one and much of the other are put together.

We have carefully watched our proportions; have been careful not to crowd, therein using Nature as a priceless guide; have tried to keep the darker colored flowers near the bottom; and using the featured flowers about two-thirds the height of the arrangement. We have been careful, also, to cut only the freshest flowers, not only because they add greater beauty to the exhibit, but because to exhibit flowers that last only long enough to get by the judges is a form of dishonesty. And as each is finished the flowers are treated in the same manner as the specimen flowers and checked off the schedule.

We are not forgetting either the new introductions that were given a trial in our gardens, which we are identifying with cards and exhibiting under the proper classification as an educational feature.

Now we are "all set" for the flower show and feel we deserve a good night's rest. But do we sleep? We lie awake hour after hour mentally reviewing each exhibit until at last we fall asleep to waken in the morning with the feeling of something momentous near. Then we remember—the flower show! Our schedules tell us no exhibits are accepted after 11 A. M. So, like good soldiers, we obey the mandate of the management and have our exhibits entered before the deadline with the feeling we have contributed our best toward the success of a worthwhile social enterprise in the community in which we live.

Propagation of Tuberous Begonias by Cuttings

By C. F. LANGDON

When Begonias are so readily propagated by sowing seeds, and these are so easily obtained, why trouble to take cuttings?

The answer to this question which may be and often is asked, is that in the first place, in the growing of thousands of seedlings, it is found that a plant here and there shows characteristics that are distinct and are sufficiently outstanding to make it desirable to retain it, and because there is always a danger of losing the tuber during the resting season or of losing the plant by damp or neglect during the growing season. The only way of making sure of retaining the particular qualities exhibited by the plant in question is by taking cuttings, and thereby raising a number of plants to guard against its loss. Especially is this desirable when the hybridist is keen on his job, as he then can be sure of having the particular plant with outstanding merit to cross-fertilize, and thereby transmit its particular merits to succeeding generations. This method, if persisted in, ensures a gradual improvement of the strain, although not quickly apparent. After a number of years the hybridist with good taste and right judgment will possess a number of varieties that are as far ahead of the ordinary strains as the "Koh-i-noor" is in value above an ordinary diamond.

Now as to method of propagation:

The tuber, being planted in the ordinary way and potted first into 4 inch or 5 inch pots and shifted to its final pot, say 6 or 7 inches, will grow away freely in a mean temperature of 70 degrees. The plant should normally produce laterals in the axils of the leaves; that is above a joint. These laterals can be taken off as cuttings, when about 3-4 inches long. They must, however, be very carefully taken, making sure that the dormant eye, which can be seen at the base of the lateral, is retained when it is severed from the main branch. This is best done with a narrow and sharp penknife, making two incisions, one above and the other below the base of the cutting, taking care at the same time

not to injure the parent stem, and, if possible, to save the leaf, above which the lateral is produced. I hope this is clear, because it is not at first an easy job, but after a little practice it becomes so.

Having taken the cutting it should be inserted at the side of a three-inch pot, in a mixture of loam, leafsoil or peat, and clean sand—equal proportions of each. The pot should then be plunged in gentle heat in a propagating frame, keeping close and shaded, and in a temperature of 70 degrees. The frame should be uncovered and dried every morning, to guard against damp. This is the greatest danger to the successful propagation of Tuberous Begonias; the growth being generally very succulent. For this reason, plants that are to be propagated should not be grown in too moist and close an atmosphere, thereby causing soft and sappy stems.

The cuttings should be rooted in about 4 weeks, when they can be taken from the propagator, and if desired, potted into larger pots.

Propagation can be effected at any time during the summer and early autumn; the later cuttings being left to ripen their tubers in the pots in which they are struck.

Oakland Flower Show

Chateau gardens of France was the theme of the show this spring and that idea was very closely followed from the market place at the entrance to the gate tower before the city, to every detail of the formal gardens and the row of Gothic cottage rooms for the display of shadow boxes, interior decorating, etc. As one entered the building a gay parking space of set design worked in orange marigolds and blue and purple stocks caught the eye. This was made by metal boxes in the desired shapes covered with chicken wire and set in the gravel space. The flowers were then set in the con-

tainers and were almost flat with the surface of the gravel. The effect was like a lovely tiled floor. On one side was a typical French cafe and on the other carts full of flowers and vegetables and booths where one could buy cut flowers, potted plants and herbs. Also some clever garden smocks, rubber pads and gloves and painted flower pots and other tools were for sale at a booth. In an alcove in the tower, before one went up the steps to enter the gardens, were beautiful professional flower arrangements in interesting Louis XI vases with the "a" pronounced as in law. They were loaned from the art galleries of Gumps. Dragging ourselves from there we mounted to the top of the tower and looked down on a formal garden of tulips flanked by hedges of rhododendrons and azaleas. No flight of my imagination could ever make you visualize the tulips which seemed more beautiful and had more new shapes, sizes and colors than I ever saw before. Individual displays from professional gardens were hedged off with privet and to keep the French touch, many tall Lombardy poplars were used. I will only mention one of those exhibits as they were all very beautiful but the usual thing. One was a strip along the wall and it was so cleverly arranged with mirrors that it doubled itself into a large square. The shadow boxes were all framed in a different manner. Some were picture frames, one was a mirror frame and it was hung with ice-blue satin and had a small mirror in the background, and really, I had to go up and put my hand on it to be sure it really was not a mirror. The prize winner was from the San Francisco Garden club and it was a lovely oval old-fashioned gold frame lined with black velvet. A slit had been made in the center and the old-fashioned bouquet of roses and jonquils and columbine, etc., bathed its feet in a vase in the rear and artificial stems completed the picture in the front. Looked just like those old pictures painted on velvet that hung in my grandmother's music room. The orchid display was fine and Miss Sessions must have enjoyed the display of shrubs and plants. I thought the many new brooms by Sidney Mitchell were the most promising. All colors and sizes. The wildflower display was the best I ever saw. Of course I particularly liked the iris and fritillaria in that group.

Rooted Cuttings from Dahlias . . .

By H. LODGE

Rooting cuttings from dahlias has been the practice in England for a good many years, but it is only within recent years that this method has been used in this country.

It was not favorably received when it was first practised by a few growers, but it is now in general use all over the United States where dahlias are grown. However, there is still a little difference of opinion on the subject.

It is chiefly used to increase more quickly the new varieties, and any grower possessing something exceptionally fine in a new dahlia can increase his stock of it far more rapidly than by the old method of relying on root divisions.

Cuttings are produced by placing

dahlia clumps or divisions on the bench in a greenhouse in February, in some suitable growing medium. Some method of heating must be used, not so much in the daytime, but to keep up the temperature on cool nights. This will bring out the sprouts or new growth, which must be cut off at the base when about four inches high.

Some growers use sand as a medium for rooting these cuttings, but my best results have been obtained by using a mixture of tulle peat and sandy loam. When properly rooted these plants will give excellent results, and give just as good or even better blooms than from roots, also produce fine clumps and are more economical to buy, as they are priced at one half the cost of roots. This gives dahlia

growers a better opportunity to purchase the new varieties and improve their collections.

The methods of growing these rooted plants are the same as those used for growing seedlings, when planted in the open. They need to be watered regularly until roots have become established in the ground, after which they grow rapidly. With tubers there is always the chance of rotting after planting, but with plants this danger is done away with.

Plants are now sent by mail or express and travel quite safely for long distances.

CHEMISTRY OF THE DAHLIA

The foremost authorities on plant metabolism concur in ascribing the following specific influences of the three plant food elements upon the development of the leaf, stem, root and bloom.

NITROGEN

1. Promotes leaf and stem growth.
2. Favors root development.
3. Hastens blooming.

PHOSPHORIC ACID

1. Stimulates early root formation.
2. Gives vigorous start to plants.
3. Increases ratio yield to stalk.
4. Improves quality of yield.
5. Hastens maturity of crop.

POTASH

1. Important in sugar and starch formation.
2. Gives stiffness to stalk.
3. Increases sturdiness of plants.
4. Helps plants to resist disease.
5. Improves quality of yield.

A BAMBOO

I sprout within the mold;
For decades, I unfold,
Fostered by rain and sun,
Till slim and strong I stand.
A pen in Auster's hand,
I trace these lines that run
Across the untracked sky:
"After I bloom, I die,
But I am not undone."
Though Death cut down my cane,
I count his triumph vain.
I flowered! My goal is won!
At the appointed hour
The seed I left shows power,—
New life I have begun!

F. H. Lane.



CALIFORNIA TOWER—BALBOA PARK

ACTIVITIES OF FLORAL ASSOCIATION AND GARDEN CLUB

(Continued from Page 1)

have ever seen them there before. Year by year we see progress being made in planning and developing local gardens and in our opinion garden contests and flower shows are responsible for much of this progress.

San Diego Floral Association

By ADA PERRY

Miss Akemi Togo's long expected visit took place at the April meeting of the Floral association and was well worth the wait. Every one was prepared to learn a great deal about Japanese arrangements from a real authority but only a few members had any idea beforehand of Miss Togo's charming personality and appearance. Added to this she is a thoroughly entertaining little speaker, her ability apparently a combination of Japanese culture and American frankness.

She had two long tables of arrangements of her own to discuss, some of which she finished to cap climaxes of her talk. A water lily dish she worked out from the beginning. She is also talented with her chalk and diagrammed for story thoroughly and this correspondent thinks Mary Ward deserves a medal for holding that blackboard all evening.

A novel bouquet easily had here was two sided with a section of fan palm leaf as a division. Miss Togo used a mirror behind it so one could see both sides, each different, while standing in front of the bouquet. A sweet pea arrangement that opened eyes was in four triangles (not even Miss Togo attempted to arrange sweet peas in one triangle) with alternating colors of pink and white. The triangles radiated from a flat dish. Incidentally Miss Togo says that water stays fresh longer in the new flat dishes. She also advised a teaspoon of saki or pure whiskey to a quart of water for long keeping bouquets. This even keeps wisteria from dropping, not drooping, as reported by my dearly beloved San Diego Union which errs to be human occasionally.

Gardens visited in April were Mrs. Amy Strong's at Ramona and Mrs. Herbert S. Evans' on Plumbosa Way in San Diego. San Diego county does well to enclose two such gardens and their

hospitality to the Floral association is greatly appreciated.

The spring flower show May 2 and 3 in the Exposition was a great success and Expo authorities are said to be angling already for the fall show. Offhand, no more fitting attraction to the fair can be imagined, we believe. The show room was the palace of entertainment where Sally Rand and others have held sway and this assured a more general crowd than usually gets around to the show when held where only flower fanciers (nearly said fans) congregate. After all members of the association would attend the show if it were held in Viejas gorge. The general public needs the break.

Fallbrook Garden Club

By MRS. H. E. HOFFMAN

Our Spring Flower Show was held April 18th and 19th and was a great success. As mentioned in our last month's items, we had no schedule, blue ribbons or prizes this time but invited everyone to bring in arrangements of flowers which were placed where they would be most effective. As a result, there were no clashing colors and we thought it the most beautiful flower show we have held.

On April 9th our Club made a pilgrimage to the Santa Ana Botanic Garden. There, in that naturally lovely setting, native trees, shrubs and flowers are being collected from all over California and made to feel at home. A well informed guide conducted us on a walking tour, pointing out plants of special interest and answering the many questions that we put to him. We ate our lunch on the picnic tables under the trees, after which we inspected with interest an exhibit of wild flowers, labeled with both common and botanical names. We then went to the lecture hall and heard a very interesting talk on the many varieties of *Ceanothus* found in California. The lecture was illustrated by enlarged images of actual specimens of *Ceanothus* projected on the screen.

Garden Clubs of Pacific Holds First Meeting

An announcement has just been made by Mrs. Leonard B. Slosson of

Los Angeles, California, regional vice president of the National Council of State Garden Clubs, that the first Pacific Coast regional meeting will be held in Portland, Oregon, June 9 and 10, at the time of the Portland Rose Festival. The Portland Garden Club will be chairman and will be assisted by a hospitality committee of members of other garden clubs of Portland. Headquarters will be at the Hotel Benson where rooms will be found reasonably priced.

Registration will begin promptly at 9 o'clock on the morning of June 9. The fee which includes the banquet will be reasonable. At 10 o'clock the first business meeting will be held. The morning will be concluded with a lecture and an address at luncheon. At the banquet in the evening the guest speaker will be presented. On June 10, the morning will be occupied with meetings, followed by a box luncheon, after which there will be visits to gardens including a visit to the Rose Test Garden in Washington Park. A tea at the University Club will conclude the program of the hospitality committee. Visiting delegates may send to their state presidents for further detailed information regarding the meeting as it is furnished from time to time by the Oregon hospitality committee.

The Pacific Coast Region of the National Council of State Garden Clubs embraces the states of Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington. Each state president has been invited to attend the regional meeting to prevent such outstanding achievements as will be of most help to the other states of the region. The attendance of state chairmen is particularly desired so that there may be round-table discussions of plans and problems. Lecturers will tell of the marvelous wealth of the flora of the Northwest and its alpine treasures and of the need for conservation of the wild life of that area.

This group of states, extending from Canada to Mexico and inclusive of a great mountain range, is characterized by unusual variations in climatic and topographic conditions which result in a wider variety of plant life than is found in any other section of the country. In consequence, there is a call for a lecture bureau equipped to send lecturers into the region familiar with its climate, (Continued on Page 10)

Begonia Club Notes . . .

. . . A Series of Letters From All Parts of the United States

Pueblo, Colorado.

The letters came in bad shape, envelope torn open, but nothing missing. I have tried to grow Hardy Evansiana here but failed. Has to be taken up in fall and stored like the glads (should be stored in sand or soil). About the Rex being planted directly in the jardiniere. I bought a begonia that was exhibited at our state fair, Aug. 1935. It was a Feastii, potted in a jardiniere 12 inches across; the plant is growing all out over the edge. Garden Club members and growers are demanding correct names. I use that cold water treatment for bugs on my plants by holding a plant sideways under the faucet and washing the foliage thoroughly. Doing this every few days it keeps them clean from mealy bug and aphids.

"Nona."

Chattanooga, Tenn.

I used to think a little tobacco dust was good around begonias, but it seems to me it burns the leaves; and I saw in a greenhouse some Meliors love with the Superbas and the two floor, and it had burned the leaves. My Jassamines, I spray with Evergreen in Lux soapsuds. The tobacco seemed to stop the black and white flies, though it was bad for the leaves. I ordered Bellargio, Lucendro, Velma S. and Jean from Mr. Robinson; they are growing fine so far. He also sent me Codolargo, a beautiful plant full of light pink blooms. Am much in love with the Superbas and the two I have made beautiful plants.

"Thornton."

New York Botanical Gardens

B. Socotrana, a native of Sandy Islands, Socotra is a winter flowering begonia. It is the parent with B. Dregei of Gloire de Lorraine, Glory of Cincinnati and Lady Mac; also parent

with a cross between tuberous begonias. Propagation is done by a division of the bulbs which should be done in September. Also by leaf cuttings used about 2 inches of the stem and place in a bench with bottom heat. Water well every fourth day. It takes from four to six weeks to establish the roots; pot in small pots well drained. The soil should be light, sandy and rich in leaf mould without fertilizer.

Tuberous begonias can be started from cuttings. Should be started latter part of February. After growth of from five to six inches, the cuts can be taken from the tuber and planted in a peat and sand mixture of equal proportion. B. Camelliaeflora is one of the most gorgeous of the tuberous. Represents the flower of the camelia japonica, a small single flower is the female and used for pollination.

Classed with the tuberous are three attractive specimens, Sutherlandi, Dregei, natives of South Africa, and Weltonensis, an offspring of the two introduced by Major Clark of Welton Park, England.

B. Sutherlandi has a bright red stem, green leaves and deep orange flowers. B. Dregei is one that is mostly used for cross pollination. The leaves are green, reddish underneath and dies off in summer time. B. Weltonensis rosea has a red stem like the Sutherlandi; the leaves are smooth and resemble a maple leaf. Flowers are rose pink.

Rhizomatous groups are Verschaffeltiana, a cross between Manicata and Carolinaefolia, large smooth green leaves growing from a thick heavy stalk. Flowers rose pink on long stems. Early spring bloomer. B. Feastii history is well known. B. Manicata aureo maculata, native of Mexico. Light

green leaf edged red and blotched in white yellow and pink. Thick collar of red hairs at junction of leaf and stem underneath, also along the veins in groups. Flowers pale pink.

"Z," "W."

Peabody, Mass.

At this date, Feb. 2nd, we are having cold weather in New England now for two weeks, the thermometer going to 10 degrees above and going to below at night. This means that all plants on the window must be removed at night. On the second floor I put newspapers between the window and plants. Geraniums will stand this, but my precious begonias are not on the window sills. They are too tender. Mrs. Kimball is full of flower now, sprays of large pink flowers hang down from the axils of every leaf. The small plant of Odorata rosea has a spray of flowers, soft rose pink. Jinnie May has several red blooms, also a tall red cane. Peach leaf has six sprays of white flowers. Bertha von Lothingen has three sprays of tiny pink flowers. All the "Star" types are full of bloom. Conchaeafolia is about through. My little Venus has one spray. Peltata has two large ones and Margaritaceae three large ones. Mrs. Peace, Lugarno, Templani, Manicata aureo are all blooming. C. Lucerne has not been without bloom since last fall and Preussan and the semperflorens variegata are constant bloomers. Nearly all my plants are in three and four inch pots. I do not have room for large plants. None of the new Robinson hybrids have bloomed yet; they are still small. "Lita," will you please describe Elva and Punctata for us and give their parentage?

Hernandiaefolia is not a bit like Nelumbifolia.

Since the letters were here last I have visited "Joy." I wish you could see the magnificent Rex she grows in her living room. She is fortunate enough to have a father and brothers who are interested in begonias and grow them in the greenhouse. I was interested in having her father say that Rex begonias need more water than the fibrous kinds. He said every time he went away the Rex begonias did not get as much water as he would give them. But they were very handsome I assure you. The large plant of Rex Fireflush was a beauty. I brought one home and it is doing well, but some have gone to

(Continued on Page 10)

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Premium List . . .

Presents the Twenty-Ninth Annual Spring Flower Show, Saturday and Sunday, May 2nd and 3rd, 1936, opening Saturday 1:00 p. m.

SECTION A—AMATEURS ROSES

- * 1. Collection of Roses, 25 varieties, two blooms each. (Association cup).
 - * 2. Collection of Roses, 12 varieties, two blooms each.
 - * 3. Collection of Roses, 6 varieties, two blooms each.
- NOTE: No person may exhibit in more than one of Class 1, 2, 3.
- 4. Six White Roses, one variety.
 - 5. Six Red Roses, one variety.
 - 6. Six Yellow Roses, one variety.
 - 7. Six Yellow Shaded Roses, one variety.
 - 8. Six Pink Roses, one variety.
 - 9. Six Pink Shaded Roses, one variety.
 - 10. Six Flame Colored Roses, one variety.
 - 11. Three White Roses, one variety.
 - 12. Three Red Roses, one variety.
 - 13. Three Yellow Roses, one variety.

- 14. Three Yellow Shaded Roses, one variety.
- 15. Three Pink Roses, one variety.
- 16. Three Pink Shaded Roses, one variety.
- 17. Three Flame Colored Roses, one variety.
- 18. One White Rose.
- 19. One Red Rose.
- 20. One Yellow Rose.
- 21. Yellow Shaded Rose.
- 22. One Pink Rose.
- 23. One Pink Shaded Rose.
- 24. One Flame Colored Rose.
- 25. Display of Single Roses.

*Denotes Exposition Medal.

- 26. Display of Polyantha or Baby Roses.
- 27. Display of Old Fashioned Roses.
- 28. Display of Climbing Roses.
- 29. Arranged Vase, Bowl or Dish of Roses. One variety.
- 30. Arranged basket of Roses. One variety.
- 31. Arranged Vase, Bowl or Dish of Roses. More than one variety.
- 32. Arranged basket of Roses, more than one variety.

* BEST ROSE IN SHOW

SECTION B—AMATEURS BEARDED IRIS

- 33. Arranged Basket of Bearded Iris.
- 34. Arranged Bowl of Bearded Iris.
- 35. Arranged Vase of Bearded Iris.
- 36. Arranged Low Dish of Bearded Iris.

BULBOUS IRIS (Dutch, Spanish or English)

- 37. Arranged Basket of Bulbous Iris.
- 38. Arranged Bowl of Bulbous Iris.
- 39. Arranged Vase of Bulbous Iris.
- 40. Arranged Low Dish of Bulbous Iris.

BEARDED IRIS

- 41. Arranged Basket of Beardless Iris.
- 42. Arranged Bowl of Beardless Iris.
- 43. Arranged Vase of Beardless Iris.

(Continued on Page 12)

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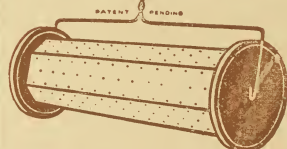
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Begonia Club Notes

(Continued from Page 8)

sleep for their winter nap. It was very nice to have some of the members ask about my California trip. I saw a good propagating box for garden use but instead of describing it I will put it in the bulletin for the Begonia society.

The meeting of the Society which I attended was held in the patio of the President, Mr. Walker at Long Beach. The patio is not in the center of the house as they usually are, but at the back between the house and garage. In fact it is somewhat like the open shed which connects my house and barn, only mine is wooden and his is cement. In one corner was a large fireplace and the night of the meeting the open side was screened by a large canvas curtain making a large room of the patio. A big fire blazed on the hearth and it was very comfortable. The thing that fascinated me was that the three walls were hung with pot plants. There was a small window high up on the rear wall so it was not very light, but light enough. Baskets of plants were hung from the beamed roof and the effect was extremely pretty. When I came home I made the beginning of such a decoration in my open shed and I liked the effect very much. Each morning I turned the hose with a fine rose spray on all the plants, and did they grow?

Mr. Walker had set hooks at intervals in the walls. Then he twisted a wire around the pot with a loop and hung the pot on the wall. A small piece of wood was tucked between the bottom of the pot and the wall, thus making it hang evenly, instead of on a slant.

I have two window boxes painted green. I mean to put up brackets for them on the wall and fill them with plants. Last summer a garden club to which I belong, was entertained at Gloucester, and one of the places we visited had a small enclosed porch similar to this—three sides enclosed,

the fourth open. The owner has boxes of begonias around the sides and they grow beautifully.

After my call on "Lita" I took the trolley back to San Diego, but as we passed the miles of beach, literally covered with flowers growing in the sand, I could not stand it and left the car to botanize on the beach. I found many lovely things and pressed a specimen of each. Then I went down to the beach to get some sea weeds. The cement walls had flights of steps at intervals, and when I left I walked up a flight of these steps and found to my dismay there were no steps down on the landward side, as in most places. Well I just did as I've always done, jumped down, but I forgot that I had been out of the hospital only a few weeks and muscles were not as strong as usual, and down I went in a heap on the cement sidewalk. Was I disgusted! I looked around to see who had observed my downfall, picked myself up and went away from there in a hurry.

How about a name for the spotted semperflorens. I suggest *B. semperflorens variegata*. Any other suggestions?

"Bess."

FOR PERFUME

(Continued from Page 3)

both fragrant and spicy and may scent a fingerbowl or flavor a mild jelly.

Many shrubs are delightfully fragrant—the reddish velvety "sweet-shrub" or *Calycanthus*; lemon verbena; lilac; and mockorange, called *Philadelphus* or *Syringa* in the North, Carolina cherry in the South; the butterflybush (erroneously called "summer lilac") from China, whose long drooping rich violet blooms give off deep fragrance all summer. The sweet-scented summer-blooming honeysuckle vine of the South is the naturalized Japanese honeysuckle.

The United States Department of Agriculture has a number of free bulletins with many references to flowering plants with delightful perfume.

ACTIVITIES OF FLORAL ASSOCIATION AND GARDEN CLUB

soil, and flora. At the latest National Council Board meeting in New York City, this need was recognized by the decision to create a Pacific Coast branch of the National Speakers' Bureau which, when in operation, will provide more intelligent programs and will be a bond of common interest in the development of the many horticultural problems confronting so diversified an area.

Of great interest and concern to every garden club is the staging of a flower show which will present not only fine color and examples of artistic garden design but also suggestions of suitability of plants to climate and surface features. A great deal of helpful information will be given by Mrs. O. W. Dynes in an address on "Successful Flower Shows." Mrs. Dynes, a former Illinois garden club president, has been for several years show manager of the Chicago Flower Show held yearly at the Navy Pier under the auspices of the Garden Club of Illinois.

This carefully arranged program will attract many garden club members from the entire Pacific Coast region. At the Portland meeting the region will make its important contributions to national cooperative effort through its membership in the National Council of State Garden Clubs.

Cactus and Succulent Show

May 14, 15, 16, 17 a great cactus and succulent show will be staged in Los Angeles at Paul J. Howard's Horticultural Establishment, 250 La Brea Avenue. In a natural setting, skillfully landscaped, exhibits from notable growers of cacti and succulents will be staged as if growing in their native habitat. Also, these fascinating plants will be seen in all stages of growth. California's distinguished amateurs will show a vast number of rare and unusual plants of these types.

It should be remembered that nowhere in the world can a magnificent exhibition of these desert plants be arranged more easily than in Southern California.

auspices of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America. Lovell Swisher, who so successfully managed the Bel Air Show, is manager.

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Question Box . . .

By R. R. McLEAN

Snapdragons and Rust

QUESTION: My snapdragons are showing rust quite badly. I have more or less of this every year. Is there any remedy? Have tried spraying with Bordeaux mixture but cannot see that it does much good. Thank you.

B. S. A.

ANSWER: In certain seasons and locations rust infection may be very heavy and practically ruin the plants. There is really not much to be done although spraying with Bordeaux plus certain cultural practices is the nearest thing known to a remedy. Windy locations should be avoided and the plants be irrigated and fertilized freely to stimulate a quick, vigorous growth. Irrigations should be given only on bright, sunshiny days and early enough in the day to allow the ground to dry out on top before night. A top dressing of sand, say a half inch thick, will enable the soil surface to dry out quickly. A dry air is quite necessary if rust is to be avoided. Sometimes the beginnings of rust can be detected on seedlings. These should be destroyed and only clean seedlings planted in the permanent bed.

QUESTION: I would like to know what to do to get rid of cutworms. They are eating up kale plants and all vegetables. Would like to know of a cheap and effective remedy to use.

D. C. T.

ANSWER: If these are the true cutworms, they can usually be found in the soil around the plants during the day. They then come out at night to feed, although some species feed day and night. The simplest and most effective remedy is a poisoned bran mash scattered on the ground around plants they are working on. The mash is pre-

pared by mixing one teaspoonful of white arsenic and one pound of bran dry, and add four teaspoonfuls of molasses which has been diluted with a little water. Enough water can then be added to make a dry mash which will broadcast easily. Larger amounts of this mash are made in the proportions of one pound of white arsenic, 25 pounds of bran and two quarts of cheap black strap molasses. A little fresh lemon or orange peel finely ground up and added to the mash increases its attractiveness.

QUESTION: Will you kindly tell me about a shrub I have seen growing the other side of the mountains down in the desert. The twigs and branches are grayish or whitish in color and more or less prickly. The blossoms are beautiful and are purple and shaped something like a pea bloom. The bush itself is two or three feet high, perhaps even four or five feet. If you can identify it by this description, please tell me also if it can be transplanted and grow here?

Mrs. L. E.

ANSWER: The description seems to fit that of the so-called smoke tree, *Dalea spinosa*, although there are at least two other members of the same genus on the desert, all bearing deep indigo blue blossoms. This bush or tree belongs to the pea family, or legumes, as do many other desert shrubs and trees. It does not take kindly to our cooler climate along the coast with an entire change of soil, also. It is, of course, possible that under special conditions it might be induced to grow here, but it is very definitely a product of the desert and needs the hot sun, the dry air and the sandy soil of that area.

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THE SAN DIEGO FLOWER SHOW

(Continued from Page 9)

44. Arranged Low Dish of Beardless Iris.

* Sweepstake Trophy 33-44 inclusive.

COLLECTIONS

45. Collection of five distinct named varieties of Bearded Iris.
46. Collection of ten distinct named varieties of Bearded Iris.
47. Collection of twenty distinct named varieties of Bearded Iris.
48. Collection of five distinct varieties of Beardless Iris.
49. Collection of ten distinct varieties of Beardless Iris.
50. Collection of twenty distinct varieties of Beardless Iris.
51. Collection of five varieties of Bulbous Iris.
52. Collection of ten varieties of Bulbous Iris.

* Sweepstake Trophy 45-52 inclusive.

SECTION C—AMATEURS SWEET PEAS

- * 53. Collection Sweet Peas, 10 stems each vase.
54. Vase Sweet Peas, White.
55. Vase Sweet Peas, Cream and Yellow Shades.
56. Vase Sweet Peas, Red and Red Shades.
57. Vase Sweet Peas, Pink and Pink Shades.
58. Vase Sweet Peas, Lavender and Blue Shades.
59. Vase Sweet Peas, Purple and Maroon Shades.
60. Vase Sweet Peas, Salmon and Orange Shades.
61. Vase Sweet Peas, Bi-Color.
Classes 54-61 inclusive should carry ten to fifteen stems each vase.

62. Arranged Bowl of Sweet Peas.
63. Arranged Basket of Sweet Peas.
* SWEET PEA SWEEPSTAKES, San Diego Floral Association Bronze Medal.

SECTION D

Amateurs

FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

64. Arranged Basket of Flowers other than Roses, Sweet Peas or Iris.
65. Arrangement of Flowers in Pewter Container.

66. Arranged Bowl or Dish of Flowers in Shades of Yellow.
67. Arranged Bowl or Dish of Flowers in Shades of Pink or Rose.

68. Arranged Bowl or Dish of Flowers in Shades of Lavender and Blue.

69. Arrangement of Flowers in Vase, Bowl or Dish.

70. Arrangement of White Flowers in White or Silver Container.

71. Arrangement of Flowers in Copper or Brass Container.

72. Pairs of Bouquets.

73. Flower Arrangement on Mirror.

74. Arrangement of Fruit.

* Sweepstakes in Classes 64-74 inclusive.

SECTION E

Amateurs

MISCELLANEOUS

- * 75. Miniature Arrangements. Four inches over all. Limit three entries.

- * 76. Luncheon and Tea Tables.

77. Breakfast Tray Arrangements.

78. Individual Specimen of Decorative Plant.

79. Cut Specimen Flowering Vine.

80. Collection of Bulb Flowers, six or more varieties.

81. Display of Gladioli.

82. Display of Pansies.

83. Display of Violas.

84. Display of Delphinium.

85. Display of Petunias.

86. Display of Stocks.

87. Display of Snapdragons.

88. Display of Calendulas.

89. Display of Larkspur.

90. Display of Fuchias.
91. Display of any other Flowers not otherwise classified.

* Sweepstakes Classes 78-91 inclusive.

SECTION F

Open to All Competition

- * 92. Display from Civic, State or National Institution.

- * 93. Display of Native Shrubs and Flowers.

94. Single Specimen Cactus.

95. Collection of Six Cacti.

- * 96. Collection of Twelve Cacti.

* San Diego Floral Association Bronze Medal.

97. Single Specimen Succulent.

98. Collection of Six Succulents.

99. Collection of Twelve Succulents.

100. Dish or Tray Garden.

101. Miniature Garden. Limit 18x24 inches.

SECTION G PROFESSIONALS

102. Display of Sweet Peas.

103. Display of Cut Roses.

- * 104. Displayed Collection of Rose Bushes in Bloom.

* San Diego Floral Association Silver Medal.

- * 105. General Display of Cut Flowers other than Roses or Sweet Peas.

- * 106. Displayed Collection of Shrubs and Plants.

107. Display of Bulb Flowers.

108. Collection of Begonias, Ferns, and other Lathhouse Plants.

SECTION H FLORIST ENTERIES

109. Best Arranged Basket, Bowl or Vase of Cut Flowers.

* OUTSTANDING DISPLAY IN SHOW, San Diego Floral Association Silver Medal.

* Classes in which Trophies are offered. Ribbons for first and second in all classes.

FLOWER SHOW CHAIRMEN

Roses—Mrs. Geo. Gardner. Phone Bayview 0346-M. Mrs. C. M. Hauser. Hill. 1101.

Sweet Peas—Mr. W. H. Gibbs. Phone Hill. 1550-J.

Iris—Mrs. George Spurbeck. Ran. 5271. Mrs. Wendell Brant. Hill. 5373.

Arrangements in Baskets, Bowls and Dishes—Pieter Smoor, Phone Main 4875, and Mrs. John Nuttall, H. 3065.

Miniature Arrangements—Mrs. Robert Morrison.

Annuals and Perennials—Mrs. E. W. S. Delacour. Phone Hill. 4021. Mrs. Grace Trevey. Phone Hill. 2011-J.

Cacti and Succulents—Luncheon and Tea Tables—Junior League. Mrs. S. A. Durr. Phone Hill. 1075.

Clerking—Mrs. Elsie Case.

Nomenclature—Mrs. W. H. Hutchins.

Chairman of Judges—Mr. John Morley.

Secretary—Mrs. M. E. Ward. Phone Hill. 2132-J.

General Chairman—Mrs. M. A. Greer. Phone Hill. 1550-J.

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BEAUTY

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THROUGH YOUR LETTERS :- :- TELL THE WORLD
